

MARYLAND

Website: www.elections.state.md.us

Link to state election website is also available through FVAP website at www.fvap.gov

Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

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MARYLAND

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

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REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)	
1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (mark only one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY	
<input type="checkbox"/> (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY	
2. MY INFORMATION (Required)	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)	
SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	
b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)	
c. SEX	d. RACE
<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	e. DATE OF BIRTH
	f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
	g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
j. EMAIL ADDRESS	
3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (For military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) (Required)	
a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)	
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	
c. COUNTY	
d. STATE	
e. ZIP CODE	
4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS	
a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)	
b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (Complete 4.b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4.a.)	
c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL	
5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):	
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots — see instructions for Block 6 paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)	
7. AFFIRMATION (required)	
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:	
1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and	
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and	
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and	
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and	
5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and	
6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.	
I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.	
Signed: _____ Date: _____	
(Witness/Notary and address (if required)) _____	

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions on the following page. **You must complete all shaded areas.**

I. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FPCA

A If you have a current, valid Maryland Driver's License or MVA identification card, enter the identification number in Item 2.g. Only if you do not have a current, valid Maryland Driver's License or MVA identification card, enter at least the last four digits of your Social Security number in Item 2.f. If you do not possess any of these identifications, Maryland will assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.

B Provide the complete street address of your Maryland voting residence. A post office box is insufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. For example: "on Highway _____, 2 miles past Highway _____, across the street from the _____ gas station." This address must be different from the one provided in Block 4 and must be within the county to which this application is being mailed.

C Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. It must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.

D See Section II.E or III.E.

E Generally, you must be affiliated with a political party to vote in that party's primary elections. If you do not list a party affiliation, you will be registered as "unaffiliated." If you are currently registered and want to change your political party affiliation, you must submit a completed FPCA, including your new political party choice or "unaffiliated," to the local election board not less than 84 days before the primary.

F You must sign and date the FPCA. By signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Maryland and members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local Board of Elections early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To register and request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the local Board of Elections so that it is postmarked not later than the 21st day before the next election (the date on which registration closes).

If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA or other written correspondence to the local Board of Elections so that it arrives not later than the Tuesday before the election. Any written correspondence must contain your signature, your name and mailing address, any Maryland residential address, telephone number and your date of birth, and must state that you may be absent from your Maryland county of residence on election day.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Make sure your voted ballot is postmarked not later than the day before the election. Your voted ballot must arrive at the local Board of Elections by U.S. Postal Service or a private mail carrier according to the following timetable:

- If mailed from within the U.S. - on or before 4 p.m. on the Wednesday after election day.
- If mailed from outside the U.S. for a gubernatorial primary - on or before 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday after election day.
- If mailed from outside the U.S. for a general or special election or for a Presidential primary - on or before 10 a.m. on the second Friday after election day.

Local election officials mail absentee ballots approximately 30 to 40 days before the election.

You must sign an oath stating your eligibility to vote by absentee ballot when you return a voted absentee ballot.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. See instructions below in F. and in Chapter 2, page 21.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

Registration and voting materials need not be notarized or witnessed.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Maryland allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. After faxing, submit the FPCA by mail. You may not submit the FPCA for registration by fax.
- Maryland allows you to receive the blank ballot by fax.
- Maryland does not allow you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix B for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. **Use the following numbers:**

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527

1-800-368-8683

(from U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands only)

International toll-free fax numbers
(See inside back cover)

F. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Maryland allows Uniformed Services voters to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote in any election for any Federal, state or local office.

G. Application for Ballot by Proxy

Until the closing of the polls on election day, a registered voter or the voter's duly authorized agent may apply in person for an absentee ballot at the office of the local Board of Elections if the voter may be absent from the voter's Maryland county of residence on election day.

The application must be made under penalty of perjury and must specify the reason for absentee voting. A qualified applicant may designate an agent to pick up and deliver the absentee ballot. The agent:

- must be at least 18 years old
- may not be a candidate on the voter's ballot
- must be designated by the voter in writing and signed under penalty of perjury
- must sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury

Instructions continue in Section IV: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Maryland and overseas citizens as defined in the following sentence. The term "overseas citizen," for purposes of the *UOCAVA*, means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Maryland. The term includes:

- civilian employees of the U.S. Government serving outside the U.S. and their spouses and dependents (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- members of the American Red Cross, Society of Friends, or USO serving with the Armed Forces outside the U.S. and their spouses and dependents (for local, state and Federal office ballots)

- other overseas citizens (for Federal office ballots only)

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your local Board of Elections early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To register and request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to the local Board of Elections so that it is **postmarked** not later than the 21st day before the next election (the date on which registration closes).

If you are already registered and only wish to request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA or other written correspondence to the local Board of Elections so that it arrives not later than the Tuesday before the election. Any written correspondence must contain your signature, your name and mailing address, any Maryland residential address, telephone number and your date of birth, and must state that you may be absent from your Maryland county of residence on election day.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Make sure your voted ballot is **postmarked** not later than the day before the election. Your voted ballot must arrive at the local Board of Elections by U.S. Postal Service or private mail carrier according to the following timetable:

- For a gubernatorial primary - **on or before 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday after election day.**
- For a general or special election or for a Presidential primary - **on or before 10 a.m. on the second Friday after election day.**

Local election officials mail absentee ballots out approximately 30 to 40 days before the election.

You must sign an oath stating your eligibility to vote by absentee ballot when you return a voted absentee ballot.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below in F. and in Chapter 2, page 21.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

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The application must be made under penalty of perjury and must specify the reason for absentee voting. A qualified applicant may designate an agent to pick up and deliver the absentee ballot. The agent:

- must be at least 18 years old
- may not be a candidate on the voter's ballot
- must be designated by the voter, in writing and signed under penalty of perjury
- must sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury

Instructions continue in Section IV: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Bars to Registration and Voting

The following persons may not register or vote:

- An individual who has been convicted of an infamous crime (any felony, treason, perjury, or any crime

involving an element of deceit, fraud, or corruption) unless:

- the individual has been pardoned, or
- for a first conviction, the individual has completed the sentence imposed, or
- for a second or later conviction, at least three years have passed since the individual completed the sentence imposed.

- An individual convicted more than once of a crime of violence (unless the individual has been pardoned)
- An individual under guardianship for mental disability
- An individual convicted of buying or selling votes

B. Statewide Voter Registration; Removal From Voter Rolls

Maryland voter registration applies statewide. It is not necessary for a voter who is registered in one Maryland county to re-register when the voter moves to a different Maryland county. However, it is the responsibility of the voter to notify Maryland of any change of address by the deadline to register to vote before an election. If it is apparent that a person has moved out of Maryland entirely, and does not qualify to vote in Maryland under *UOCAVA*, the person can be removed from the voter rolls under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 for failing to provide a current address and then failing to vote in two consecutive general elections.

C. Action on FPCA Requests

Local boards of elections perform voter registration and absentee ballot processing. To register or request an absentee ballot, you should contact the board in your Maryland county of residence.

D. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

If a local Board of Elections denies your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, the local board will provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. A person denied registration may file an administrative complaint with the State Board of Elections. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

E. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the **Board of Elections** in your Maryland county of residence at the appropriate address listed below. Use the PO Box address, if available, for regular mailing

and the street address if using a private mail carrier or no PO Box address is available.

County	County Seat	Zip Code
Allegany	Board of Elections 701 Kelly Road, Suite 213 Cumberland, MD	21502-3401
Anne Arundel	Board of Elections PO Box 490 Glen Burnie, MD	21060-0490
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 7320 Ritchie Highway, Second Floor Glen Burnie, MD	21060-0490
Baltimore City	Board of Elections Benton Office Bldg., Room 129 417 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, MD	21202-3432
Baltimore County	Board of Elections 106 Bloomsbury Avenue Baltimore, MD	21228-5220
Calvert	Board of Elections PO Box 798 Prince Frederick, MD	20678-0798
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 150 Main Street, Suite 107 Prince Frederick, MD	20678
Caroline	Board of Elections Health & Public Services Building 403 S. 7th Street, Suite 247 Denton, MD	21629-1335
Carroll	Board of Elections 225 N. Center Street, Room 105 Westminster, MD	21157-5194
Cecil	Board of Elections 129 E. Main Street Court House, Room 332 Elkton, MD	21921-5970
Charles	Board of Elections PO Box 908 La Plata, MD	20646-0908
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 9320 W & W Industrial Road La Plata, MD	20646
Dorchester	Board of Elections PO Box 414 Cambridge, MD	21613-0414
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 501 Court Lane, Room 105 Cambridge, MD	21613
Frederick	Board of Elections Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street Frederick, MD	21701-5447
Garrett	Board of Elections 2008 Maryland Highway, Suite 1 Mountain Lake Park, MD	21550-6349
Harford	Board of Elections 133 Industry Lane Forest Hill, MD	21050-1621

County	County Seat	Zip Code
Howard	Board of Elections 8900 Columbia 100 Parkway Columbia, MD	21045-2339
Kent	Board of Elections 135 Dixon Drive Chestertown, MD	21620-1141
Montgomery	Board of Elections PO Box 4333 Rockville, MD	20849-4333
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 751 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, MD	20850
Prince George's	Board of Elections 16201 Trade Zone Avenue Suite 108 Upper Marlboro, MD	20774-8758
Queen Anne's	Board of Elections PO Box 274 Centreville, MD	21617-0274
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 505 Railroad Avenue Centreville, MD	21617
St Mary's	Board of Elections PO Box 197 Leonardtown, MD	20650-0197
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 41650 Tudor Hall Road Leonardtown, MD	20650
Somerset	Board of Elections PO Box 96 Princess Anne, MD	21853-0096
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> County Office Building 11916 Somerset Avenue Princess Anne, MD	21853
Talbot	Board of Elections PO Box 353 Easton, MD	21601-0353
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 20 North West Street, Suite 2 Easton, MD	21601-0353
Washington	Board of Elections 35 W. Washington Street, Room 101 Hagerstown, MD	21740-4834
Wicomico	Board of Elections PO Box 4091 Salisbury, MD	21803-4091
	<i>Street Address for Private Mail Carrier:</i> 123 Bateman Street Salisbury, MD	21804
Worcester	Board of Elections 100 Belt Street Snow Hill, MD	21863-1310

Reach New Heights - Go Vote!

by LCDR Michael Kohler, USN